

CITY OF KENT 2020 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENT REPORT

1. TIME AND LOCATION

June 6, 9 am to 3 pm

Kent United Methodist Church, 11010 SE 248th Street, Kent, WA 98032

2. PARTICIPANTS

The number of participants and the average vehicle per minute are shown in Table 1.

Table 1, PARTICIPATION RATE

PARTICIPATION	SPRING 2020
Number of vehicles	1,070
Average vehicles per minute	2.97

3. MATERIALS COLLECTED PER VEHICLE

1,070 cars dropped off materials at the event, though due to late afternoon rain, we stopped documenting the materials brought in by each car from 1:55 -3:00. We gathered data from 866 cars. The remainder of the day we used hand counters to record the number of cars. Table 2 shows the number of cars that brought in each material.

Note that the figures add up to more than 100% because many people brought more than one material, although a significant number (50 percent) only brought in one material. In addition, 20 percent of the participants that brought in paper for shredding only brought that material, and 10 percent of the participants that brought in household goods only brought in household goods. We will examine this data further for possible improvements in the traffic flow for future events.

Table 2, NUMBER OF VEHICLES WITH THESE MATERIALS

Item	Number of participants bringing this material	% of participants bringing this material
Shredding	390	44.7%
Household Goods	283	32.4%
Batteries	209	23.9%
Electronics	201	23.0%
Cardboard	168	19.2%
Mattresses and Box Springs	125	14.3%
Toilets and Sinks	45	5.2%
Propane Tanks	8	3.6%

Note: The table shows the data from 866 cars from 8:30 am – 1:55 pm.

4. EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Safety Precautions: With the concern to keep everybody safe during the COVID 19 pandemic, additional precautions were put in place. The City worked closely with King County Public Health so that participants and staff could stay safe. The Health Department provided educational materials that the City incorporated into their brochure. Event staff were screened for exposure to COVID 19, and were told they would be sent home if they did not meet the safety requirements. The City provided a wash station for participants and staff. Traffic directors all wore masks, and many of the vendors wore masks. At the entry to the event, signs were posted: “Stay Safe”, “Wear a Mask” and “Stay in Your Car”. Even though it was not required, almost all participants wore masks, and only one participant was observed not wearing a mask. Vendors modified their collection procedures to maintain a six-foot safe distance as much as possible. Participants stayed in their cars unless directed by staff or vendors to get out of their vehicles.

Venue: Kent United Methodist Church offered us a good site. We originally planned to hold the event at Phoenix Academy, though due to COVID 19 they could not host the event, so the City quickly secured the United Methodist Church. The Church was very hospitable for offering their site with short notice. Since this site was a bit smaller, we minimized the number of materials collected. While this site worked out for this event, we encourage the City to continue to stage recycling events on larger sites so that more materials can be accepted.

Traffic flow: A total of 1,070 cars attended the event. The morning was the busiest. The first car arrived at 7:45 am. We opened the event early, at 8:30, to alleviate the congestion on the street. The line of cars stretched 1/3 of a mile on 148th Street during the first two hours. We lined up the cars from one direction to keep the traffic on the other side of the street moving smoothly. Between 8:30 -3:00 the greeters welcomed 1,070 cars at 3 cars per minute. Despite the long lines, the traffic flowed smoothly within the event and the staff worked rapidly to keep up with the traffic. The number of participants continued at a steady pace for the entire day. The certified flagger kept traffic flowing on 148th Street for those vehicles not attending the event. We coned off two lanes entering the event site and had a long queuing line within the site. The busiest materials collection spots included shredding which collected a record number of pounds of paper, and household goods which collected reuse items from an unprecedented number of cars. With many Goodwill and reuse stores closed due to COVID 19, the household good collection spot was in high demand.

Participants: The participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to drop off their materials. They followed the City’s recommendation to wear masks. This popular community event answered the need for many residents who accumulated many recyclable and reusable items in their homes during the Governor’s “Stay at Home” order. The event was in high demand as we expect that participants spent plenty of time cleaning out their homes when adhering to the “Stay at Home” order.

Participants by Zip Code: At the City’s request, we recorded the zip codes of the participants. Most of participants (85%) were from Kent as shown in Table 3. 126 cars out of a total of 846 recorded were from outside of Kent, but still lived in King County.

Table 3, PARTICIPANTS BY ZIP CODE

Zip Code	Number of cars	Percentage
98030	185	22%
98031	215	25%
98032	104	12%
98042	216	26%
Other	126	15%

We recorded “out of area” zip codes for 36 of these 126 participants, which provides a sampling of where those cars came from (see Table 4 below).

Table 4, PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE CITY OF KENT

Zip Code	Location	Number of Cars
98058, 98059	Renton	11
98092, 98002	Auburn	10
98115, 98116, 98166, 98198	Seattle	4
98004	Bellevue	3
98038	Maple Valley	3
98023	Federal Way	2
98012	Bothell	1
98052	Redmond	1
98070	Vashon	1

Vendor and Staff feedback: Staff heard many comments about the smooth traffic flow and good organization of this event. Some of the vendors, including Shredding and Household Goods, brought in extra trucks and said they had more cars than they expected.

Staffing: Six staff members and one volunteer greeted participants and guided them where to take their materials. One Certified Flagger directed traffic on 148th Street. Greeters informed participants where to take items that were not collected at the event, which included hazardous waste and florescent lights, styrofoam and large items.

Complaints and Comments: We received no complaints about the wait time. A few participants were disappointed that we could not accept styrofoam, though seemed to understand the situation. We greeted a few participants that were not fluent in English and we communicated with them so that they understood where to drop off their materials.